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Martin Continues His Homeland Security Profession with New UASI Position

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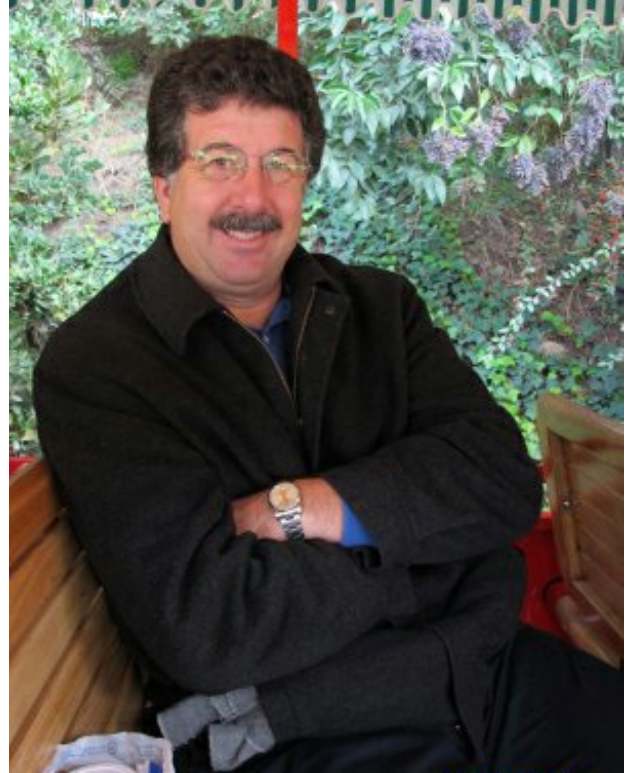
Martin Continues His Homeland Security Profession with New UASI Position

 chds.us/c/item/837

Bruce Martin has found a second act in homeland security.

The fire services veteran and college educator is now Project Manager of the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), overseeing its Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Explosives (CBRNE) program. Martin is a 2010 master's degree graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

His UASI role is aimed at building capacity to respond to threats such as toxic chemicals, biological pathogens, radiological substances, unshielded nuclear material and explosives by evaluating the annual grant process that funds related efforts by local agencies, monitoring the performance of those grants and ensuring agencies succeed in executing their program. In fiscal year 2011-2012, the region spent \$3.2 million for all-hazards response equipment, according to the Bay Area UASI. Specialized teams such as SWAT are provided with gas masks, Kevlar helmets, and ballistic shields. Fire fighters and hazardous materials teams received personal protective equipment including swift water dry suits for water rescue.



"I'm helping with a resource inventory/metrics project to help approval authority and advisory group members understand what assets are already out there and where, in order to inform their funding decision making," Martin said.

Additionally, Martin is amid two research projects. One addresses Domestic Nuclear Detection in which he will work with the Lawrence Livermore National Lab to create a concept of operations and sustainable program for the Bay Area's Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection Program.

A second project involves gauging the capacity of Incident Management Teams (IMT) in the region. As Martin evaluated applications for equipment and training from both existing and start-up IMTs he decided to examine how to maximize those efforts.

"We gathered information on current situations, likely use of IMTs, capabilities, smart practices from around the nation and we have approached this from a multi-agency, multi-discipline perspective," he said. "The next step is to have a discussion about governance, or at least ways to cooperate to benefit the region."

The position requires the kind of inter-agency collaboration stressed in CHDS classrooms. More than seven million residents live within three core cities (San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland) in a region that encompasses 12 counties and more than 100 other cities, as well as a number of special districts, Martin noted.

CHDS provided a format for Martin to analyze the necessity of regional collaboration in homeland security as he researched and wrote his master's degree thesis, "Collaboration in the San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Medical Response System."

"That's what this endeavor is all about, particularly at the state and local level." Martin observed. "Look at the Bay Area demographics – we cannot get it done any other way. Pragmatically, doing the research opened a few doors that had been closed, or that I had never knocked. We are talking about a human process and the research offered the opportunity to establish some relationships that are important personally and professionally."

Martin came to the position with years of fire service experience, including stints as chief in the California cities of Fremont and South Lake Tahoe. His familiarity with the Bay Area and his academic background made the UASI job appealing.

"I had actively participated in the CBRNE working group prior to retirement as a way to broaden my agency's involvement in homeland security," he said. "I have some observations on how the grant process has evolved over the years since 9/11, and some thoughts on priorities. There are always gaps to work on and the UASI Team was very encouraging to get me in the room."

During his time as fire service professional, Martin has taught fire technology, command and management for nearly 30 years. He moved into upper division and online instruction before retirement and continues to work in that area. Also, he worked as a consultant to International Association of Fire Chiefs on a FEMA course entitled "Training for Regional Collaboration," which was rolled out earlier this year to the FEMA regions around the country.

"The CHDS program had really expanded my view on how I could contribute to homeland security," Martin said. "The overarching value of the program to me was to emphasize and reinforce some fundamentals in the world of policy: Listening. Asking 'why?' Challenging assumptions."

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